REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 3 and 9 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided at paragraphs [0117]-[0118] of the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 6 and 12 have been amended, thereby obviating the 101 issue raised on page 2 of the Office Action.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by "A Method For Removing Blocking Effects In MPEG-2 Video By Applying A Block Classification Technique Using Stream Information" by Satoshi Kondo (hereinafter, merely "Kondo").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"...class detection means for detecting **a class to which pixel data
of a target position in said second image signal belongs, based
on at least motion compensation vector information having
sub-pixel accuracy** which has been used at the time of obtaining
the pixel data of said first image signal corresponding to the target
position in said second image signal...

**wherein the class detection means detects a class difference
based on whether the motion compensation vector has a sub-
pixel component**." (Emphasis added)

Kondo describes a method for removing blocking effects that become evident

when decoding MPEG-2 video data by classifying each block and detecting the blocking effects

by using the information obtained from MPEG-2 video bitstream. The blocking effect removal

is achieved by applying a filter to the decoded images in response to the detected result.

However, the present invention, as claimed in the independent claims is directed

to classification based on whether the motion compensation vector has a sub-pixel component.

Thus, a motion vector which has **sub-pixel accuracy** does not necessarily have a **sub-pixel**

component. For example, "1" does not have decimal accuracy, "1.5" has decimal accuracy and

a decimal component (0.5), "1.0" has decimal accuracy but does not have a decimal component.

Thus, claim 1 recites that the detection means utilizes the motion compensation vector

information with sub-pixel accuracy and a class difference based on whether the motion

compensation vector has a sub-pixel component. Neither of these features are described in

Kondo.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Kondo fails to disclose or suggest the

above identified features in claim 1.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard

to independent claim 1, independent claims 4-8 and 10-12 are also patentable.
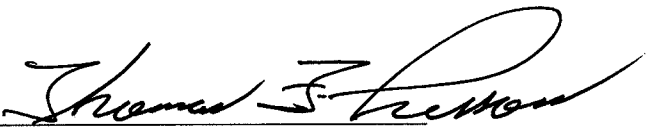
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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